



CHIEFS COUNCIL

*RESOLUTION of the Matawa Chiefs Council passed at the
24th Annual Matawa Chiefs Assembly in Webeque First Nation to be effective from and after
3:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time on the 2nd day of August 2012.*

RESOLUTION #28 – 08-02-12

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DRUG OFFENCES

WHEREAS: prescription drug abuse is at epidemic levels in Matawa First Nations and the number of illegal dealers on reserve continues to increase;

AND WHEREAS: Matawa Chiefs *Resolution 2011/#15* mandated a zero tolerance policy and protocol prohibiting the possession of illegal substances on reserve, as well as a protocol for implementing random search and seizures;

AND WHEREAS: Matawa Chiefs *Resolution 2011/#15* directed the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) and other law enforcement agencies to apprehend and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those people possessing illegal substances for the purposes of sale and distribution;

AND WHEREAS: NAPS and other law enforcement agencies have conducted raids on reserve and individuals who have been charged remain on reserve pending court hearings where they are free to continue selling and distributing illegal substances or, if convicted but not incarcerated, are free to continue their illegal activities;

AND WHEREAS: agreements are being made between lawyers for offenders and the Crown to avoid court hearings and sentencing, and the terms of these agreements are not being shared with First Nations where the offenders are reside;

AND WHEREAS: First Nations lack the capacity to effectively monitor illegal activities and enforce zero tolerance policies and protocols within their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly reaffirm their support of the zero tolerance policy prohibiting the illegal possession and distribution of legal and illegal substances and for random search and seizure on reserve;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly reaffirm their direction to Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) and other law enforcement agencies to continue their efforts to ensure the zero tolerance policy is enforced;





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FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Matawa Chiefs in Assembly demand that no more agreements be made between offenders and the Crown in cases involving the illegal possession and distribution of legal and illegal substances, and that sentences must be imposed to send a message to drug dealers and others who may be influenced to become involved in illegal activities;

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that Matawa Chiefs in Assembly support Chiefs and Councils to take interim measures to ensure people apprehended for illegally selling and distributing legal and illegal substances are prevented from continuing their illegal activities pending their court hearings, upon discharge of the charges, or upon release from incarceration.

MOVED BY: Chief Peter Moonias, Neskantaga First Nation

SECONDED BY: Chief Harry Papah, Eabametoong First Nation

ABSTENTIONS: 0

CARRIED: Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Chief Executive Officer

